

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (New) An inflatable surfboard cover device for covering a surfboard having top and bottom surfaces and including a forward section having side rails converging in a forward direction to a bow, the device comprising:

an elongated envelope including top and bottom cushions for covering the top and bottom surfaces of the surfboard;

the envelope further including inflatable tubular side rail cushions connected between the top and bottom cushions and cooperating therewith to form a surfboard compartment configured with a forward portion complementally shaped to receive the forward section of the surfboard and permanently closed along the opposite sides;

the envelope formed at its rearward end with mouth for insertion of the surfboard therethrough into the compartment;

the side rail cushions being formed from flexible gas impervious walls configured to be, when inflated, and the surfboard is received in its compartment, distended to inflated configurations having respective C-shaped lateral cross sections in at least the forward section to complementally embrace the outboard edges of the side rails;

the top and bottom cushions and side rail cushions cooperating to, when the side rail bladders are inflated, constrain the side rail cushions laterally inwardly against the side rails in the forward portion to maintain the envelope in position on the surfboard with the side rail cushions cushioning at least the forward portion of the side rails against damage from impacting forces; and

a valve for admitting pressurizing gas to the side rail cushions.

34. (New) The surfboard cover device of claim 33 that includes:

an inflatable tubular lip at the rear extremity of the top, bottom and side rail cushions and configured to circumscribe the mouth; and

a closure device for closing the releasably fastening the lips together.

35. (New) The surfboard cover device of claim 33 for use with a surfboard configured with the opposite side rails converging rearwardly and inwardly toward the rear of the surfboard from an intermediate location on the surfboard and wherein:

the side rail cushions are configured to project rearwardly from the forward portion substantially parallel to one another.

36. (New) An inflatable surfboard cover device for covering a surfboard configured with a forward portion having forwardly converging opposite side rails and top and bottom surfaces and comprising:

an elongated flexible inflatable and deflatable envelope formed by longitudinally extending inflatable tubular side rail cushions configured in transverse cross section with an inwardly facing C-shape to embrace, at least, the side rails in the forward section and terminating along their respective lengths, at the respective terminus of the C-shape, in laterally inwardly facing, upper and lower longitudinal partition walls;

the envelope further including elongated upper and lower longitudinal inflatable cushions defining respective upper and lower cushioning chambers and configured to cover the top and bottom surfaces of the surfboard and formed along the length at their respective laterally outer extremities with respective longitudinal partition walls abutting the respective upper and lower rail longitudinal partition cushion walls and being heat welded thereto;

the envelope further including an inflatable nose cushion affixed to the forward extremity of the respective rails cushions and top and bottom cushions;

the envelope cooperating to form a compartment for complementally receiving the surfboard and terminating at its rearward extremity in a mouth openable for access to the compartment;

a releasable fastener for fastening the mouth closed; and

pneumatic valves for introducing compressible gas to the respective rail, top and bottom and nose cushions for inflating of the cushions to cooperate in holding the rail

cushions embraced laterally inwardly against the rails at the forward portion of the board to cooperate in providing pneumatic cushioning against impact of exterior forces against the surface of the surfboard.

37. (New) An inflatable surfboard covering device for covering a surfboard having top and bottom surfaces and side rails converging in a forward direction to a bow, the device comprising:

a flexible skin material constructed to form a plurality of discrete inflatable cushions defining pneumatic chambers and cooperating to define an envelope formed with an elongated surfboard compartment closed on its forward end and lateral sides and shaped, at least in the forward portion, to complementally receive the forward portion of the surfboard, the chambers constituted to receive pneumatic cushioning means to when the surfboard is in the compartment, be disposed in close complementally fitting relationship along the respective side rails, cover the lateral edges to pneumatically cushion the lateral edges thereof;

top and bottom surface pneumatic cushioning means for extending between the respective side rails for cushioning the respective top and bottom surfaces of the surfboard;

releasable mouth means openable to receive the surfboard into the compartment;  
and

valve means for controlling flow of gas into the respective discrete cushions.

38. (New) An inflatable surfboard cover device for covering a surfboard having top and bottom surfaces and forwardly converging side rails terminating in a bow and comprising:

an envelope configured to be complementally received over the surfboard and formed along its lateral sides with respective single chamber inflatable side rail cushions to be, upon being inflated, distend the walls thereof to a laterally inwardly opening C-shaped transverse cross sectional configuration to embrace the opposite edges of the respective side rails to cushion such side rails against contact from exterior forces, the envelope further including a cover for covering the top and bottom sides of the surfboard for cushioning thereof; and

a valve for introducing compressible gas to the side rail cushions.